

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINSHA 00246 111459Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 AID-05 TRSE-00 COME-00 OMB-01 CIEP-01 OPIC-03  
IGA-02 FEAE-00 EB-07 /085 W  
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P R 111420Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1233

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 0246

E.O. 11652: GDS 12/31/83

TAGS: EGEN EINV BE CG

SUBJ: BELGIAN/ZAIRIAN RELATIONS

REF: A. KINASHA 190, B. KINSHASA 241

1. JAN 10 BELGIAN ECONOMIC COUNSELOR MADE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS  
TO EMBOFF CONCERNING CURRENT STATUS AND LIKELY PROSPECTS OF  
ZAIRIAN/BELGIAN RELATIONS:

A. DECISION NOT TO PROCEED WITH RETROCESSION OF CELZA WILL  
HAVE ENORMOUS IMPACT IN BELGIAN GOVT, BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL  
CIRCLES. CELZA REPRESENTS APPROX HALF OF TOTAL VALUE OF ALL BEL-  
GIAN COMPANIES WHICH WERE NATIONALIZED AND IT IS OBVIOUSLY UN-  
REALISTIC TO EXPECT MEANINGFUL COMPENSATION FROM GOZ DUE TO ZAIRE'S  
CURRENT FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES.

B. DESPITE SEVERAL PROMISES BY GOZ TO ACCORD HIGHEST PRIORITY TO  
SETTLING CLAIMS OF BELGIAN INDIVIDUALS, ESPECIALLY HARDSHIP  
CASES, ALMOST NO PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE. OF 65 CLAIMS PRESENTED  
IN THIS CATEGORY, GOZ HAS AGREED TO AMOUNT OF COMPENSATION IN ONLY  
FIVE INSTANCES. LACK OF PROGRESS IN THIS POLITICALLY SENSATIVE  
AREA IS OF PARTICULAR CONCERN TO BELGIAN PUBLIC.

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C. BELGIAN DECISION TO EXTEND SIGNIFICANT FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL  
ASSISTANCE FOR ONATRA HAS ALREADY BEEN DELAYED FOR APPROX SIX MONTHS  
PENDING RECEIPT FROM ZAIRIAN AUTHORITIES OF WRITTEN AUTHORITY  
WHICH WILL BE ACCORDED TO PROPOSED BELGIAN DELEGATE GENERAL FOR  
ONATRA.

D. RETROCESSION OF BELGIAN BUSINESSES OTHER THAN CELZA IS  
PROCEEDING VERY WELL AND ALMOST ALL MAJOR BELGIAN FIRMS HAVE RE-

TURNED TO ZAIRE.

E. DESPITE DECISION NOT TO RETURN CELZA AND LACK OF PROGRESS IN RESOLVING INDIVIDUAL CLAIMS AND ONATRA MANAGEMENT, BELGIAN EMBASSY HAS RELIABLE REPORTS THAT, DURING HIS FORTHCOMING VISIT TO BELGIUM, MOBUTU INTENDS TO MAKE REFERENCE TO THE RETURN OF A NUMBER OF MAJOR BELGIAN COMPANIES AND, AS A QUID PRO QUO, ASK FOR A MAJOR BELGIAN GOVT LOAN.

2. COMMENT: DESPITE FACT THAT AS OF JAN 11 PETROZAIRE RETROCESSION APPEARS TO BE BACK ON TRACK (REF B), MAJORITY OF BELGIAN/ZAIRIAN DIFFICULTIES REMAIN.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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